

Media consolidation during the 1930's within Germany was very helpful to the Nazis in their effort to take control of the German people and government. History can repeat itself within our own country and enable the right wing extremists to take power and to end our democracy and our electoral process which seems to have already been compromised in 2000 and now at risk due to electronic voting and tampering. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.